

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
first monitoring network traffic, and ~~generating one or more items of tuple cache~~ cached 5-tuple packet information for request messages of a specified type;
determining a number of valid and invalid request messages by analyzing the ~~one or more items of tuple cache~~ cached 5-tuple packet information;
comparing current network traffic to the number of valid and invalid request messages, at first and second points of a network, and using said comparing to generate information about unwanted communications passing through the first and second points, the unwanted communications being of a type to reduce the ability of the target device to respond to other communications;
communicating the information generated about the unwanted communications to brokers corresponding to the first and second points of the network;
analyzing, by the brokers, the information generated about the unwanted communications; and
communicating between the brokers to identify which of the points first carried the unwanted communications.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, also including detecting the direction of the unwanted communications.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, also including identifying the target device.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, also including correlating communications request messages with acknowledgement messages.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, also including communicating information about the unwanted communications to brokers.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, also including blocking a portion of communications passing through the point through which the unwanted communications originated.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, also including blocking a portion of communication request messages passing through the point through which the unwanted communications originated.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, in which the target device comprises a web server.

12. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
monitoring network traffic, and ~~generating one or more~~
~~items of tuple cache~~ caching a 5-tuple packet information for
request messages of a specified type;
determining a number of valid and invalid request messages
by analyzing the ~~one or more items of tuple cache~~ cached 5-tuple
packet information;
monitoring current communications passing through at least
a first point and a second point on a path and comparing said

current communications with the number of valid and invalid request messages;

using said comparing to find indicia of unwanted communications;

communicating the indicia of unwanted communications to brokers corresponding to the first and second points on the path;

analyzing, by the brokers, the indicia of unwanted communications;

communicating between the brokers to identify which of the points first carried the unwanted communications; and

blocking communications passing through an interface device based on said identifying.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, also including blocking a portion of the communications passing through the interface device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, also including blocking a portion of communication request messages passing through the interface device.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, also including correlating communication request messages passing though the first and second points with acknowledgement messages.

20. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
first and second interface devices for detecting and generating information about current network traffic;

a communications analyzer monitoring network traffic, and ~~generating one or more items of tuple cache~~ generating a 5-tuple packet information for request messages of a specified type, and analyzing the information generated at the first and second interface devices relative to a number of valid and invalid request messages to identify unwanted communications; and

two or more brokers corresponding to the first and second interface device to receive and analyze information about the unwanted communications, and to identify which of the interface devices first carried the unwanted communications.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, in which the communications analyzer also includes:

an interface monitor corresponding to each interface device; and

a communications link between the interface monitors.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the brokers for instructing the interface devices to block messages.

24. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a communications monitor for detecting and generating information about unwanted messages originating on a first network and directed to a target device on a second network, the communications monitor comprising:

a plurality of interface monitors between the first network and the second network for monitoring the passage of unwanted messages therethrough; and

monitoring network traffic, ~~generating one or more items of tuple cache~~ generating a 5-tuple packet information for

request messages of a specified type, and determining a number of valid and invalid request messages by analyzing the ~~one or more items of tuple cache~~ cached 5-tuple packet information;

a plurality of brokers coupled to the plurality of interface monitors to receive and analyze information about the unwanted messages, and to identify the network point that first carried the unwanted messages by comparing current network traffic with the number of valid and invalid request messages; and

a gating module for blocking messages passing through the network point identified by the localizer from the first network to the second network.

25-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, in which the communications monitor also includes a statistics analyzer for statistically analyzing the messages passing through the plurality of points.

28. (Original) The system of claim 24, in which the gating module is operable to block a portion of the messages passing from the first network to the second network.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, in which the gating module is operable to block a percentage of all messages passing from the first network to the second network.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28, in which the gating module is operable to block a portion of communication request messages directed to the target device.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied in a computer readable medium, the program capable of configuring a computer to:

monitor network traffic, and ~~generating one or more items of tuple-cache~~ caching a 5-tuple packet information for request messages of a specified type;

determine a number of valid and invalid request messages by analyzing the ~~one or more items of tuple-cache~~ cached 5-tuple packet information;

generate information by comparing current network traffic with the number of valid and invalid request messages, at first and second points of a network, about unwanted communications from a source passing through the first and second points directed to a target device that are adapted to reduce the ability of the target device to respond to other communications;

communicating the information generated about the unwanted communications to brokers corresponding to the first and second points of the network;

analyzing, by the brokers, the information generated about the unwanted communications; and

communicating between the brokers to identify which of the points first carried the unwanted communications.

32. (Original) The program of claim 31, also capable of configuring a computer to block a portion of the communications passing through the point that first carried the unwanted communications.

33-34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said network traffic of a specified type is a number of SYN requests.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 12, wherein said network traffic of a specified type is a number of SYN requests.

38. (Canceled).

39. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 20, wherein said network traffic of a specified type comprises a number of SYN requests.

40. (Canceled).

41. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 24, wherein said network traffic of a specified type comprises a number of SYN requests.

42. (Canceled).

43. (Previously presented) A program as in claim 31, wherein said wherein said network traffic of a specified type comprises a number of SYN requests.

44.-46. (Canceled).